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Reserve

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND OFFICE OF PERSONNEL

SUBJECT:

Semi-monthly Department Newsletter "USDA".

PURPOSE OF NEWSLETTER: To provide a medium for rapid and direct communication of information from the Office of the Secretary and Department officials to employees throughout the United States; this is necessary in order to accomplish essential unity of thought and understanding of the Department's program as a whole, especially in its relation to the problem of total national defense.

CIRCULATION:

A copy of each newsletter will be sent to every supervisor wherever located. The edition will be limited to approximately 30,000 copies, which includes 9,000 copies for distribution to State Extension workers.

There will be no sales circulation, as the newsletter is intended only for the staff and collaborators of the Department.

Names will be added to or removed from the circulation list only by the Office of Personnel.

CONTENT AND STYLE All articles for inclusion in the newsletter shall be prepared or reviewed by the Editor. Technical terminology will be used only where it is essential, and all technical terms shall be explained in the body of each article. No signed articles will be used.

Illustrations may be used when they are essential.

Each issue shall include only matter of Department-wide interest and significance, organized under various headings, for example:

1. With the Secretary

Condensed report of important program policy statements made by Secretary, Under Secretary, and Assistant Secretary, new personnel and other staff policies of Department-wide bearing (e.g., announcement of the new procedure on employee grievances)

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2. In Congress
Condensed summs

Condensed summaries of the provisions of newly enacted legislation affecting Department programs or personnel (for example, appropriation acts, the Ramspeck Bill).

3. Agricultural Trends

Brief reporting of the economic data, and forecasting of future price and income developments; also of technological developments which will have future economic effects; also of findings in special social and economic studies carried on by the Department. The aim would be to enable all Department key personnel to be acquainted to some degree with the significant drifts in the agricultural industry so they will be thinking from correct assumptions about the situation of the people they are serving.

4. Agriculture in Defense

Summary of the contributions of Department programs to defense, and of the effect of defense operations carried on by other Government agencies on Department programs and their effect on the welfare of farmers and other citizens. Also reporting of the progress of the Department's programs for education of farm people for citizenship in our democracy.

5. With the USDA Agencies

News notes on understanding achievements by Department agencies or individual workers.

6. For Better Public Service

Information on the activities of the USDA Clubs and interbureau and bureau training projects.

PROCEDURES:

All material proposed for publication will be subject to the approval of the Director of Personnel and the Director of Information (or their authorized representatives) as to its propriety for inclusion in the newsletter. The editorial work will be the responsibility of the Editor.

A Board of Editors shall be appointed to serve as the channel through which all staff offices and bureaus shall have free opportunity to suggest inclusion of material in the newsletter. The Board of Editors shall be composed of nine members to be nominated jointly by the Director of Personnel and the Director of Information. All members of the Board of Editors shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary

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The Director of Information and the Director of Personnel shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Editors. The Board of Editors shall meet at least once a month on call of the chairman.

FINANCES:

The Office of Information shall arrange to finance the salaries and other expenses of preparing the publication.

Printing. binding and distribution costs shall be paid from appropriate funds available for the purpose.

RELATION TO BUREAU HOUSE ORGANS: The newsletter will emphasize information and policies of Department-wide significance. It will not duplicate the purpose or material of any existing periodicals.

RELATION TO SECRETARY'S NUMBERED MEMORANDA, PERSONNEL CIRCULARS, BUDGET AND FINANCE CIRCULARS,

ETC.:

The newsletter will not be used to convey the detailed rules and regulations affecting the work of employees.

Orders will continue to follow existing lines of authority.

Check lists or brief mention of formal instructions and memoranda of general rather than technical interest may be published in the newsletter.

The newsletter may contain notices of the availability of Department publications which are intended for use by others than technical specialists.

MISCELLANEOUS: Other policy considerations, including the time of issue, will, after appropriate discussion, be made the subject of supplemental agreements between the undersigned.

Aug. 20, 1941
Date

Morse Salisbury
Director of Information

Aug. 20, 1941

Roy F. Hendrickson
Director of Personnel

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